

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON

WOMEN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

30–31 MAY 2024 / NICOSIA, CYPRUS

#WOMEN4
MEDITERRANEAN

ON THE ROAD TO
DAY OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN
NOVEMBER 28



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High-level Conference on Women for the Mediterranean

30-31 May 2024 (Nicosia, Cyprus)

Day 1: May 30, 2024

Roundtable: 10:00-12:00 Media and Gender Equality - Shifting Narratives

Opening Ceremony:

H.E. Costantinos Kombos



H.E. Costantinos Kombos, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Cyprus

Dr. Constantinos Kombos was born in 1976 in Lemesos. He has studied Law and holds a postgraduate degree in EU Law (LLM University of Cambridge) as well as a PhD in European Constitutional Law (PhD University of Hull). He was elected at the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus in 2006, of which he is a founding member. He has served as chairman of the Law Department and as a member of the Senate. He has published 6 books and numerous articles and chapters in scientific magazines and collective volumes. Part of his work has been translated and published in 6 languages. He has also participated in and delivered speeches at numerous international conferences.

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He was appointed a member of the Board of Judges by the Supreme Court. On behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, he appeared before the Court of Justice of the European Union and has made recommendations to the House of Representatives on issues of EU Law and the Cyprus Constitution.

H.E. Josie Christoudoulou



H.E. Josie Christodoulou, Commissioner for Gender Equality, Republic of Cyprus

Ms Josie Christodoulou holds a degree in Psychology, from the University of Indianapolis USA, and a postgraduate degree in Gender Studies from Middlesex University, UK. She is an expert on issues related to women’s rights and the promotion of gender equality, as well as immigration and combating human trafficking. From 2004 until 2018 she worked as a policy Coordinator at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), where she was actively involved in developing, monitoring and implementing the Institute’s policy and strategy. She has participated in various boards such as that of the Cyprus Women’s Lobby and has contributed to creating the European Female Immigrants Network, based in Brussels. She has also participated in expert groups of the European Commission and the Council of Europe on combating human trafficking. From 2019 to January 2022, she served as an advisor to former Foreign Minister, Mr Nikos Christodoulides, on gender mainstreaming in foreign policy, for which she developed and implemented an action plan.

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She has contributed to drafting bills related to women's rights and combating human trafficking. She is also a contributor to publications, including research reports and books, she has carried out seminars and training sessions and has participated in international and national conferences.

H.E. Nasser Kamel



H.E. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

A career diplomat for the Egyptian government, Nasser Kamel held the position of Ambassador of Egypt to the United Kingdom from 2014 to 2018. He was also Ambassador to France in the period 2006-2012, during which he took part in the drafting of the Joint Declaration of the 2008 Paris Summit that marked the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean. Furthermore, between 2012 and 2014, he was Assistant Minister for Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs. From 2004 to 2006, he was the Director of Egypt's Public Information Service. Prior to this position, H.E. Kamel served in various embassies.

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H.E. Basheer Zoubi



H.E. Basheer Zoubi, Jordanian Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus

H.E. Ambassador Basheer Zoubi holds a Bachelor in Economics from Portland State University (1988) and has completed graduate coursework in Economics at Carleton University (2000-2001). His diplomatic career began at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman (1991-1993), followed by assignments at the Jordan Mission to the United Nations in New York (1993-1998) and the Embassy of Jordan in Ottawa (1998-1999). He served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Jordan in Ottawa (2001-2003) and held various senior positions in Amman, including Deputy Director for the Minister's Private Office (2003-2004) and Deputy Director of the International Affairs and Organizations Department (2009-2010). Ambassador Zoubi was the Deputy Permanent Representative for the Jordan Mission to the UN in New York during two terms (2004-2006, 2007-2009) and also served as Charge d'Affaires ad interim (2006-2007). He directed the European Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman (2010) before being appointed Ambassador to Canada (2010-2016). Following his tenure in Canada, he served as Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in Amman (2016-2017).

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Roundtable 1: Women Economic Empowerment – 16:00-17:00

- *Enabling conditions and supporting ecosystem for Inclusive economies*

Mrs. Simbarashe Sibanda



M Simbarashe SIBANDA

Regional Advisor – Women’s Economic Empowerment. UN Women Regional Office for Arab States

Simbarashe Sibanda is the Advisor for Women’s Economic Empowerment for the UN Women’s Regional Office for the Arab States. In this role, he supports the development of policies and programmes in employment, enterprise development, care economy and sustainable finance. Before joining UN Women, he worked on inclusive growth and social protection at UNDP, labour market policies at ILO and skills development and learning at the Association for the Development of Education in Africa. He is a Master Trainer of the Start and Improve Your Business Programme. He has an MBA, a Master of Education (skills for employability) and a Bachelor of Social Science. He has published several papers, sector analyses and policy briefs.

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Ms. Wendy Teleki



Ms. Wendy Teleki
Head of We-Fi Secretariat

Wendy Teleki leads the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) Secretariat at the World Bank, supporting women entrepreneurs across 60+ developing countries. We-Fi collaborates with financial institutions to enhance women's access to finance, markets, skills, and technology. Prior to We-Fi, Teleki spearheaded efforts at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to expand financing for small businesses and women entrepreneurs in emerging markets. Recognized for her leadership, she was named one of Forbes's "50 Over 50" women in finance in 2022. Teleki holds an MA in International Economics from Johns Hopkins SAIS and an MBA in Finance from Wharton.

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Mr. Rania Tarazi



Ms. Rania Tarazi
Gender Team Leader, UNDP

Rania Tarazi has 19 years of international development experience in the Arab Region focused on socio-economic analysis, gender analysis and mainstreaming, policy advice and programme support, and capacity development to integrate gender dimensions into programmes. She worked with several international organisations including Oxfam GB, GIZ, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and the United Nations Development Program. She was also an independent consultant on research, project development, and advisory support to project management and M&E. She conceptualised, guided, contributed and conducted various research studies. Rania has a master's degree in inequalities and social sciences from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a master's degree in urban management from Erasmus University Rotterdam. She is proficient in English, a native Arabic speaker, and has an intermediate level of French and Spanish.

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Ms. Micheline Massaad



Ms. Micheline Massaad

Executive Director, National Commission for Lebanese Women (Lebanon)

Ms. Micheline Elias Massaad is the Executive Director of the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), the leading public institution advocating for women's rights in Lebanon. With over eight years of experience in gender equality, she has participated at NCLW in numerous initiatives to combat gender-based violence, promote women's economic empowerment, and ensure equal representation between men and women in leadership roles. She participated in the design of projects, action plans, and strategies in close collaboration with NCLW President and in cooperation with local and international entities. She oversaw their implementation, documentation, and evaluation, including the National Strategy for Women in Lebanon 2022-2030 and its Action Plan 2024-2026, as well as the National Action Plan of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism, is married, and is the mother of three children.

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- *Regional and National Programmes for women's financial and digital inclusion in the region*

Ms. Anne-France Wittmann



Ms. Anne-France Wittmann

Programme Officer, Regional Cooperation Neighbourhood South, DG NEAR, European Commission

Anne-France Wittmann works in the unit in charge of Regional Cooperation in the Southern Neighbourhood, at the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Commission. She notably focuses on women's economic empowerment.

Her previous experience includes over ten years of programme management in non-governmental and decentralised cooperation organisations and with the United Nations, specialising in support of local actors of development notably in North Africa.

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Mr. Amr Soliman



Mr. Amr Soliman

Board Member, National Council for Women (Egypt)

Mr. Soliman holds a B.Sc. in Construction Engineering from the American University in Cairo (1993) and an M.Sc. in Project Management from the University of Manchester (1995). He worked at the Social Fund for Development, contributing to national economic and social programs from 1993 to 1999. He founded and operates eVision SAE, a leading IT software provider in the Middle East and Africa, specialising in financial transactions and anti-money laundering solutions. Mr. Soliman is also the CEO and Chairman of eVision. He is a founding member of Ain El Bee'ah Cooperative NGO, focusing on waste management and renewable energy projects. Since January 2016, he has been a member of the National Council for Women, where he chairs the Environment Committee and is a member of the Economic Committee for Women Empowerment.

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Roundtable 2: Gender Equality and Climate Change – 17:00-18:00:

- *National good practices*

Ms. Cristiana Carletti



Ms. Cristiana Carletti

Roma Tre University, Seconded at Italian MoFA and International Cooperation

Ms. Cristiana Carletti is an Associate Professor of International Public Law at the Department of Political Science of Roma Tre University. She received several professorship assignments for basic training Courses of International Organization and Human Rights Protection, International Law and Peace Processes and International Development Law, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development she is Co-chair of a Jean Monnet Chair on Digital Citizenship for EU. She has been further charged with other teaching assignments for high-specialisation courses, and master's and PhD lectures. She is a senior legal expert at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights and she has been a member of several governmental delegations taking part in international conferences and events as well as attending official meetings within inter-alia the UN, CoE, EU, OSCE and OECD systems. She has also been a member of the IDLO Board of Advisers and EIGE Experts' Forum and works as an adviser at the Department for Equal Opportunities – Prime Minister's Office. She is the author of several books and articles on specialised reviews covering topics such as IOs law, peace and security, development cooperation, human rights, counterterrorism, privacy law, children's rights, and women's rights.

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Ms. Fadoua Deruoich



Ms. Fadoua Deruoiche Director of international cooperation –focal point UPM
Ministry of family, women, childhood and elderly
Women Law and rights.

- ☐ Member of National Steering committee of International Gender Equality Forum (Green Economy : women’s economic empowerment in Tunisia » 2022-2026
 - ☐ Member of National Steering committee of International Gender Equality Forum” GEF” March 2021 Mexico- June 2021 PARIS
 - ☐ Focal Point of ESCWA
 - ☐ National Focal Point of the Republic of Tunisia in the international coalition for equal pay EPIC
 - ☐ Tunisian Focal Point : UfM Regional Dialogue on Women Empowerment
 - ☐ Focal point of Arab women organisation
 - ☐ Focal point of Sustainable Development Goals-ODD5
- Ministry of The Tunisian Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, since 2018
- ☐ Member of the régional sub-committee gender equality and indicators of ODD-2018

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Nexus on Gender Equality and Climate Change and Inclusive Food systems

Ms. Antonella Autino



Ms. Antonella Autino

Coordinator of the Future4prima project, PRIMA

Ms. Antonella Autino is the project manager of PRIMA program a Euro-Mediterranean public-public partnership supported by the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation framework program.

Starting from 2013, Antonella Autino held the position of manager of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network-SDSN Mediterranean, with the aim of raising awareness about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Mediterranean region.

With over 20 years of experience in the field of EU research and innovation, Antonella Autino completed a Blue Book internship at the European Commission's DG RTD. Her focus has primarily been on agri-food research, with a particular emphasis on traceability and food authenticity.

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Ms Chiraz Bensemmane



Chiraz Bensemmane, Founder of Pitch World Fast

Chiraz Bensemmane is Algerian-French, graduated from EM Strasbourg and Georgetown University. She has worked and lived in 10 different countries. In 2015, she founded Pitch World Fast, a business development and project management company. Through this company she has been handling export projects for her clients as well as projects for the Ministry of Health of Algeria with regards to healthcare through round tables.

She is also the founder of Coach Tribe, a platform for online coaching, launched in December 2019. She is a facilitator of the Hive Women Leadership Program in Algeria since April 2019. She speaks fluently Arabic, French, English, Spanish.

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Roundtable 3: Violence Against Women and Girls – 18:00-19:00 (Cyprus time)

Ms. Simone Briony Louise Oluoch-Olunya



Simone ellisOluoch-Olunya

Regional Policy Adviser: Women's Leadership, Political Participation, Governance and Disability Inclusion

Simone ellisOluoch-Olunya is a strategic thinker with over twenty-five years of experience in international development and leadership. She is currently the Regional Women's Political Participation Policy Adviser for the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States. Previously, she was the Deputy Regional Director for two UN Women Regional Offices in Africa. Her career has exposed her to both development and conflict contexts in Darfur, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and South Africa.

She is devoted to the realization of the Agenda 2030 particularly as a champion for women's and girls' empowerment and women with disabilities. In her current role she focuses on advancing women's full engagement in decision-making processes and implementation of the [UN](#) and [UN Women](#) strategies on disability inclusion in the Arab states.

Simone is a recipient of several awards, honours and certificates from various institutions including being recognized by the Leadership Forum (Mauritius) for her outstanding leadership. She was also an Advisory Board Member to SIDA/UNDP's Global Environment and Governance Programme. Prior to joining UN Women, Simone worked with UNAIDS, CARE Norway, DfID, GAC, Cambridge University and UK Government.

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- *National good practices*

Ms. Sakina Yabouri



Ms. Sakina Yabouri
UfM Gender Focal Point (Morocco)

Docteur Sakina Yabouri Professeur de l'Enseignement Supérieur au sein de l'Institut National de l'action Social relevant du Ministère de la Solidarité , de l'Insertion Sociale et de la Famille , chargée du dossier Femme Genre et Développement.

Ex Cheffe de l'Observatoire National de la Femme , Experte en matière d'élaboration des politiques publiques ;

Experte en genre ; Experte en matière des droits Humains et spécifiquement les droits de la femme , Membre du Comité d'urgence pour la protection de la femme arabe pendant les conflits armés 20015 ; Membre de La Commission Nationale du Droit International Humanitaire au Maroc depuis 2021.

Chargé du projet Egalité et autonomisation des femmes avec Organisation de coopération et de développements économiques (OCDE). Point focal genre du Maroc auprès de la (SIGI) Syndicat Intercommunal de Gestion Informatique. Membre de la Commission du Fonds d'appui à la représentation des femmes dans la vie politique au Maroc 2022. Membre du Groupe d'experts gouvernementaux « Comité de la famille " Organisation de la Coopération Islamique" :2020 .

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Mr. Hanna Nakhleh



Mr. Hanna Nakhleh
UfM Gender Focal Point (Palestine)

Mr. Hanna Nakhleh, holding PhD in International Relations from the US, worked in several organisations, his cumulative experience varies from private sector development at the Chamber of Commerce in Jerusalem, then GIZ small and medium enterprises, and afterwards, UNDP poverty reduction and women's empowerment, and since 2014 as adviser for the ministry on donor relations and programmes, UfM Gender focal Point, member in the permanent office for Women's Development Organization

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Ms. Laia Rosich Solé



Ms. Laia Rosich Solé

Director General, Violence Against Women Sector, Department of Gender equality and Feminsim, Government of Catalunya, (Spain)

Ms. Laia Rosich Solé is the Director General for Eradication of Gender Violence, at the Ministry of Equality and Feminisms of the Government of Catalonia. She holds a degree in Psychology, a master's degree in Intervention and Research in Domestic Violence, a master's degree in Direction, Management and Intervention in Social Services, and a postgraduate degree in NGO Management. She has more than 20 years of experience in the field of gender-based violence, combining direct care with professional training, especially in the development of protocols, networking, and team supervision. She has also been Vice-Dean of the Official College of Psychology of Catalonia.

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Day 2: May 31, 2024

Keynote speech “Gender Justice” - 9:15:9:30

Ms. Clara Magahani

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Session I: Women Economic Empowerment in the Regional Crisis Context - 9:30-10:30:

Moderator: Ms Giulia Ferraresi



Ms. Giulia Ferraresi

Project Analyst, Social and Civil Affairs Division, UfM

Ms. Giulia Maria Ferraresi has a strong academic background in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, and she earned as well a Master's in Management and Communication for Social and Solidarity Entities. Giulia's professional experience reflects her commitment to social and civil affairs, particularly in the realm of gender equality and disability issues within the Euro-Mediterranean region. At the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), she has a current role as a Social and Civil Affairs Project Analyst. Previously, she gained professional experience at the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), at the European Parliament, and at the United Nations Information Center for Brazil – among others.

Giulia Maria Ferraresi's comprehensive skill set encompasses project management, event organisation, research, and communication. She is driven by a passion for promoting social and civil causes, working together with different partner institutions towards more inclusive societies.

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- *Inclusive labour market policies*

Ms. Outi Kärkkäinen



Ms. Outi Kärkkäinen

Gender Focal Point, European Training Foundation ETF

Ms. Outi Karkkainen is Senior HCD expert and gender focal point of the European Training Foundation (ETF), the EU agency supporting countries surrounding the European Union to reform their education, training and labour market systems. ETF supports 28 countries bordering the EU to improve their vocational education and training systems, analyse skills needs, and develop their labour markets. ETF also supports the European Commission and the European External Action Service in their programming, so that EU assistance is accurately targeted and matches country capacities and priorities.

Outi's areas of expertise include EU development cooperation, project cycle management and M&E in human capital development and gender equality. Her current interests include tackling root causes of horizontal and vertical gendered labour market segregation and bringing gender aspects on board to the green and digital transition related skills development agenda as well as promoting the adoption of gender transformative approach in education. She has Master's degrees from Sorbonne University, College of Europe and Institute of Education of University College London.

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Ms. Meriem Chehik



Ms. Meriem Chehik
Chair & Founder of Algerian Women Foundation (Algeria)

Ms. Meriem Chehik, is a trailblazer in aviation and women's empowerment. Through AWF, she leads initiatives to build capacity, promote economic empowerment, foster leadership, and influence policy. AWF's mission is to serve as a think tank and bridge between civil society and the government, ensuring women's voices are heard. The foundation is expanding across the MENA region, Europe, and Africa.

A commercial airline pilot and electrical/electronic engineer, Meriem has achieved much in both fields. While completing her engineering degree, she worked with Microsoft to introduce its technologies in universities and create tech and social events, creating a pool of resources to expand their reach in Algeria. She spanned over 32 countries, through leadership and technical conferences and advocating for economic empowerment and policy for women locally.

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• *Women in Leadership and Decision-making*

Ms. Rana Boulos



Ms. Rana Alnasir-Boulos
Chairperson Global Women Forum & Director Business Development Manager

Ms. Rana Boulos is a visionary entrepreneur who embarked on her professional journey by establishing her own agency while pursuing her studies. Her relentless drive and determination led her to the prestigious Euro Institute, where she assumed the role of Business Development Manager. Rana's innovative spirit ignited a revolution as she developed platforms that united individuals from the GCC countries and North Africa, fostering discussions on cutting-edge technical infrastructure and energy topics.

Throughout her career, Rana was deeply committed to promoting diversity in industries traditionally dominated by men, such as energy, AI, and STEM. Her groundbreaking research shed light on the stark gender disparities in these fields, prompting her to create the @Global Women Forum. This transformative platform empowers women by facilitating cultural exchange and fostering business connections between women from Europe and the MENA region. Rana's unwavering dedication also extends to the future, as she envisions pioneering initiatives and mentoring exchange programs that will continue to break down barriers and empower women in diverse industries.

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Ms. Kenza Benmoussa



Ms. Kenza Benmoussa
WeCaN Network (Morocco)

Ms. Kenza Benmoussa is a key delegate from the Moroccan Delegation at COP28, is a leading figure in climate action and sustainability consulting, and the founder of EarthBound Harmony. Throughout the conference, she highlighted her dedication to climate action and women's empowerment, notably speaking at a UN Women and Pakistan Government side event about the importance of collaboration and mentoring for women's entrepreneurship. Kenza actively engaged in various initiatives, including a press conference on the role of art in climate education and a workshop at the Oman Pavilion on the "Climate Caravan" project. She also advocated for addressing the gender gap in the tech and business sectors.

Kenza celebrated COP28's substantial outcomes, such as commitments from wealthy nations to assist vulnerable countries with over \$650 million and advancements in climate finance aimed at capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, she also highlighted concerns about the gender gap in leadership, revealing that only 0.1% of women have financial access within the climate sector. This spurred her to call for urgent measures to address this disparity. Her participation in business and philanthropy gatherings, including those by Bloomberg, underscored her commitment to women's empowerment in climate action and business.

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Ms. Anna Kyprianou



Mrs Anna Kyprianou
Legal Counsel, Board Secretary BPW Cyprus

Legal Counsel specializing in sports law, business law, art & entertainment law, and compliance on matters of prevention of money laundering of proceeds from illegal activities and financing of terrorism.
Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus.
Member of the License Review Authority of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works.
Secretary at the Board of the Cyprus Federation of Business Professionals (BPW Cyprus) – Member of the National Mechanism for Women Rights.
Head of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs of the 6th House of Young Representatives Cyprus.
Head of Human Rights and Gender Equality at the Democratic Alliance Party
Gender equality, equal pay, combating any kind of discrimination or harassment are high on my priorities.

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Presentation of UfM-IEMed MedWE policies studies publications “Towards More Inclusive Economies: Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment in the Mediterranean Region”

Ms. Gemma Aubarell



Ms. Gemma Aubarell
Director of Culture, Gender, and Social Affairs Department of IEMed

Ms. Gemma Aubarell Solduga is Head of the Mediterranean Relations and European Networks Service of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Department of Foreign Action, International Relations and Transparency. She has been head of the Programmes and Networks Unit of the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures (Alexandria, Egypt) 2009-2016 and director of the Department of Programs of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (Barcelona) 1998-2008.

She is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Communication and International Relations. Blanquerna-URL in Barcelona, associate researcher at GRITIM-Pompeu Fabra University, president of the ethical advisory board of the Horizon 2020 TransGang project on youth organisations and conflicts (UPF) and member of the board of the Global Fund for Educational Citizenship (ideaborn, Barcelona).

Author of collective books and articles on civil society, migration, intercultural dialogue and Euro-Mediterranean relations. She was responsible for the European programs Dawrak-Citizens for Dialogue (2012-2014), coordinator of the Youth program Mediterranean Voices (2012-2016), member of the scientific committee of the UE Sahwa research project (2014-2017) and main expert of the program labelled by the UpM “Forming Responsible Citizenship in the Southern Mediterranean” (2017-2018).

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Session II: Female Entrepreneurship - 11:30-12:30: Moderator: Ms Anna Dorangricchia



Ms. Anna Dorangricchia

Programme Manager Gender Equality, Social and Civil Affairs Division, UfM

As Programme Manager on Gender Equality at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, Anna Dorangricchia works more specifically on women economic empowerment, female entrepreneurship, and gender-lens investments.

She has a long-lasting experience as Senior expert in programming, monitoring, and the evaluation in the area of economic inclusion of women and youth under the framework of European Neighbourhood Instrument. Her professional career has been focused on supporting the cooperation among EU and non-EU national and regional authorities, NGOs, universities and the private sector in the area of inclusive development.

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- *Successful tools to promote female entrepreneurship and access to finance*

Ms. Ayah Elarief



Ms. Ayah Elarief
Founder&CEO of Warrd for Information Technology

Ms. Ayah Elarief is a seasoned entrepreneur in the K12 sector, serving as the Founder & CEO of Warrd for Information Technology. With over 17 years of experience in ed-tech, she has excelled in operations and business development roles, while also teaching animation and digital practice at the American University in Cairo. Ayah is actively involved in mentoring, speaking, and judging for fresh entrepreneurs, and she takes pride in her participation in programs with UN Women Egypt and AUC School of Business, giving back to the community that supported her early career. After graduating from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Ayah has garnered numerous awards, including winning the Microsoft for Startups competition in 2022 and securing second place in various competitions, showcasing her leadership and innovation in the industry.

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Ms. Hala Barakat



Ms. Hala Barakat
Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Egypt

Ms. Hala Barakat is the director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, AUC The American University in Cairo. Holding a BA in Business Administration from The American University In Cairo, she became Financial Institutions Manager of the Arab African International Bank. In 2005, strengthening the value of trade and encouraging local production, she co-founded Arabiaware S.A.E., which focuses on leather products manufacturing and retailing. Thanks to her longstanding interest in education and entrepreneurship development, she started providing education-for-employment training, as well as workshops and mentoring in entrepreneurship and other related fields.

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Ms. Hiba Abu-Libdeh



Ms. Hiba Abu-Libdeh
Executive Director, Sunergy for Renewable Energy Solutions

Ms. Hiba Abu-Libdeh is the owner and Chairwoman of the Board of Sunergy for Renewable Energy Solutions. She started her career at Sunergy as a Marketing and Communication personnel in 2013. Based on her work at Sunergy, she was assigned to attend the diploma program in Trade Facilitation with the Palestinian Schippers Consul (PSC) in 2014/2015. In 2016, she was appointed as the Executive Director and Chairwoman of the Board at Sunergy. She has recently joined the General Assembly of the Palestinian Businesswoman Forum. Hiba completed her BSc degree in Business Administration, with a minor in Marketing from Birzeit University in 2013. She was also granted the Chevening scholarship to earn an MSc in Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Cranfield University in 2015/2016. Short Company Profile: Sunergy for Renewable Energy Solutions is a female privately owned Palestinian company, with offices in Ramallah & Gaza. Sunergy was incorporated on July 05, 2012 and is a provider of Renewable Energy Solutions. The Company is recognized to be among the top 3 Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC Contractors) of Solar PV Systems in Palestine, with activities spread all over West bank and Gaza Strip.

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Ms. Raouia Kheder



Ms. Raouia Kheder
Journalist, RTCI (Tunisia)

Ms. Raouia Kheder is a journalist, radio host and podcast producer. Trained as an architect, she turned to her passion in 2011. Her favorite subjects are culture and arts, female empowerment and female entrepreneurship. Raouia Kheder hosts podcasts and debates on subjects relating to careers and entrepreneurship. She has also created a podcast on emerging trades in Tunisia entitled “Khedma Ndhifa” and launched the “Tunisia Podcasts” platform. She has just launched Tunisia's first podcast festival in December 2023.

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Ms. Ana Lite



Ana Lite Mateo

Deputy Assistant Director General, Institute of Women, Ministry of Equality, Spain

She is a gender equality specialist in employment and working conditions at EU and national level. She is experienced in the design, technical guidance and management of gender equality programmes, including women's professional advancement, work-life balance, labour and social inclusion of women belonging to vulnerable groups and female entrepreneurship. She is also an expert in legal analysis, as well as in drafting regulations on gender equality seals, gender equality plans and equal pay, and on the development of associated supporting tools.

She has previously worked for the European Commission as a national seconded gender equality expert and for the Gender Equality Unit at the Irish Ministry of Justice, with a Bellevue fellowship from the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

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Session III: Climate Crisis and Gender Equality in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Emerging Security Risks- 12:30-13:30:

Moderator: Ms. Gemma Aubarell



Ms. Gemma Aubarell
Director of Culture, Gender, and Social Affairs Department of IEMed

Ms. Gemma Aubarell Solduga is Head of the Mediterranean Relations and European Networks Service of the Generalitat de Catalunya, Department of Foreign Action, International Relations and Transparency. She has been head of the Programmes and Networks Unit of the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures (Alexandria, Egypt) 2009-2016 and director of the Department of Programs of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (Barcelona) 1998-2008.

She is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Communication and International Relations. Blanquerna-URL in Barcelona, associate researcher at GRITIM-Pompeu Fabra University, president of the ethical advisory board of the Horizon 2020 TransGang project on youth organisations and conflicts (UPF) and member of the board of the Global Fund for Educational Citizenship (ideaborn, Barcelona).

Author of collective books and articles on civil society, migration, intercultural dialogue and Euro-Mediterranean relations. She was responsible for the European programs Dawrak-Citizens for Dialogue (2012-2014), coordinator of the Youth program Mediterranean Voices (2012-2016), member of the scientific committee of the UE Sahwa research project (2014-2017) and main expert of the program labelled by the UpM "Forming Responsible Citizenship in the Southern Mediterranean" (2017-2018).

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Ms. Sarine Karajerjian



Ms. Sarine Karajerjian
Arab Reform Initiative ARI (Lebanon)

Ms. Sarine Karajerjian is the Program Director of the Environmental Politics program at the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI).

Prior to working at ARI, she worked for 15 years at the AUB's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs since the Institute's inception. Her previous work covered strategic management, fundraising and outreach, and partnerships and grants management. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Anthropology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris and writing her dissertation on the exile and trauma of Syrian refugee women in Beirut. She holds a Masters' degree in Environmental Policy Planning and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health from AUB.

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Ms. Noura Abdelwahab



Ms. Noura Abdelwahab
IWMI- Consultant (Egypt)

Ms. Noura Abdelwahab is a dynamic gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and research leader, bringing more than 20 years of extensive experience providing strategic advisory and research services throughout the MENA region, including in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Syria. She has led top-quality assessments and drafted comprehensive gender strategies and gender action plans to projects and organizations. She brings solid sectoral experience in agriculture, textiles, energy, water (and waste water), food processing, electrical engineering, tourism and the financial sectors. She is an economist by training, having obtained her Masters from Nottingham University and her PhD from Cairo University.

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Ms. Manale Abou Dagher



Ms. Manale Abou Dagher
Lebanese American University

Ms. Manale Abou Dagher is an experienced Program Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry.

Holistic understanding of the policy landscape in Lebanon, including many forms of interactions between the governmental institutions involved in the management of Lebanon's environmental sector. Skilled in GIS Application, Climate Change, Sustainable Development and environmental issues, Decision Support Systems and writing reports, scientific publications, TORs, technical specifications and proposals including budgeting for submission to national and international funding agencies and donors.

Work and contribution are supported by peer reviewed scientific articles and regional and international reports. Strong community and social services professional with a Master's degree focused in Geography-Environment and Land Management from Saint Joseph University.

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Ms. Suzanne Baaklini



Ms. Suzanne Baaklini
Journalist, L'Orient le Jour (Lebanon)

Ms. Suzanne Baaklini is a climate journalist at L'Orient Le Jour. Specialising in environmental issues in Lebanon and across the region, she is passionate about this field of reporting. She has also covered numerous United Nations climate summits.

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Session IV: Violence Against Women and Girls - 15:00-16:30

Moderator: Ms. Cristina Mas



Ms. Cristina Mas
Journalist, Diari Ara

Ms. Cristina Mas has been a journalist and writer for the newspaper Ara since 2010. She holds a degree in Journalism from Pompeu Fabra University and a degree in Contemporary History from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, specialising in the Mediterranean region. In 2018 and 2019, she was awarded the Gold and Silver Medals for multimedia news coverage by the ÑH Awards. Currently, she is the special correspondent in Morocco, Ceuta and Melilla, Algeria, Tunisia, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine, and the central Mediterranean.

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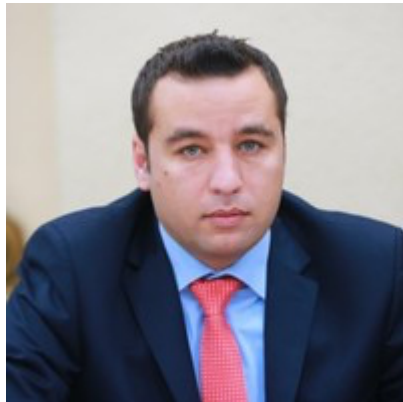


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• VAWG: multidimensional impact

Mr. Thaker Alzghool



Mr. Thaker Alzghool
EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI)

Mr. Thaker Alzghool is a research Manager at the Regional Observatory on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). His career spans over 13 years, during which he held various positions of responsibility at national and international NGOs, mainly working on combating VAWG, gender mainstreaming in laws and public policies, as well as good governance. Besides, he has been assigned duties in the fields of parliamentary development and public policies evaluation. Thaker has demonstrable experience in research, project conceptualisation and policy analysis in Jordan and the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), with a comprehensive understanding and capabilities in the particularities and complex environment of this field. His strong educational background enables him to add value to his work as he has master's degree in political science.

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Ms. Jahda About Kalil



Ms. Jahda Abou Khalil

General Director, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities(AOPD)

Ms. Jahda Abou Khalil is an activist in the disability movement since 1988, general director of the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities(AOPD), the National Association for the Rights of Persons with disabilities in Lebanon(NARD), and director of the Arab Forum of women with Disabilities(AFOWD). Author of The book “Women Overcome Barriers: The Life Experiences of Twenty-One Arab Women who Challenge Disability”. Attended most of the Conferences of the State Parties (COSP) on the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) in New York. Participated in many International and regional conferences and seminars.

Writer many articles on Women, Disability and media.

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Ms. Rana Hussein



Ms. Rana Hussein

Senior Reporter, Author and Human Rights Activist – Works for The Jordan Times

Ms. Rana Hussein is the author of “Years of Struggle – The Women’s Movement in Jordan and “Murder in the Name of Honor”. She is also a human rights activist and senior journalist for The Jordan Times. Hussein focused on social issues for around 30 years with a special emphasis on the brutal crimes committed against women in the name of family honor. Hussein has earned 10 local and international awards, including The London Arabia Organization Arab Woman of the Year Award (2019) for social impact. Hussein conducted several consultancies for local and international organizations and UN agencies. She also conducted dozens of training courses for journalists and students on gender-based violence reporting. She took part in dozens of local and international conferences as a main speaker on women empowerment and leadership involvement, gender-based violence and human rights issues.

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Ms. Andri Andronikou



Ms. Andri Andronikou

- Executive Director of the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (Cyprus)

Ms. Andri Andronikou holds a PhD in the field of domestic violence and three postgraduate degree in Addictions, in qualitative and quantitative research and Gender Equality and undergraduate studies in Social Work. She is a certified drug addiction counselor, professional guidance counselor, certified professional training instructor of the National Anti-Corruption Agency. She is a trainer of the Cyprus Police Academy, Frederick University research center and ANAD. She has writing and research work in International journals and conferences, published books on violence against women and children and scientific planning and coordination National and European projects focused on violence, equality and child protection. She has received from the President of the Hellenic Republic the first award for excellence in scientific publication of the University of the Aegean.

She has worked as an academic in the Department of Psychology and Social Work at Frederick University for 15 years and as a social worker in Mental Health Services and Social Welfare Services in Cyprus. Since 2019, she holds the position of the director of SPAVO where, through her position, she participates in institutions, parliamentary committees and councils for domestic violence and gender base violence.

She has under her responsibility the National Crisis Centre for domestic violence, the National Help Line for domestic Violence, the shelters for abused women and their child, the counselling program, prevention program, the Woman's House and the Perpetrator program.

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON

WOMEN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

30–31 MAY 2024 / NICOSIA, CYPRUS

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MEDITERRANEAN

ON THE ROAD TO
DAY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
NOVEMBER 28



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Takeaway session - 16:30-17:00: Different representatives of the various thematic panels which took place during the day, will gather for 30 minutes debrief session in which the main takeaway messages and recommendations from each panel will be highlighted

**Closing Remarks - 17:00-17:15:
H.E. Amb. John Paul Grech**



H.E. Amb. John Paul Grech, Deputy Secretary General, Social and Civil Affairs Division, Union for the Mediterranean

John Paul Grech is the Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean in charge of Social and Civil Affairs since September 2021. His diplomatic career spans over 30 years of service during which he has served as Head of Mission in both bilateral and multilateral missions overseas. In addition, he also held various positions within the Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs of the Republic of Malta, including that of Permanent Secretary. He has served as ambassador of Malta to Germany, Poland and Belarus. He also served as Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations Specialized Agencies in Geneva and Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the OSCE and UN Agencies in Vienna. Besides, he has been assigned duties as Special Envoy on behalf of the Government of Malta on a number of assignments.